

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 are pending in this application. Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the Office Action and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action. All the claims are believed to be patentable over the cited references.

### TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW

Applicants thank Examiner Paul for courtesies extended during a telephonic interview on September 7, 2007. Applicants' undersigned representative stated that the reference used to reject the claims does not teach or suggest a configuration determination element that is capable of determining, at least, a relay and panel address parameter as claimed. Examiner Paul stated that this argument may be presented in an after-final amendment.

### CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-7 and 11-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0072816 A1 to Shdema *et al.* ("Shdema"). Applicants respectfully traverse. Shdema does not teach or suggest a configuration determination element that is capable of determining, at least, a relay and panel address parameter as claimed. Shdema discloses controlling said parameters such as volume, balance and equalization (see, e.g. paragraph [0038]), however, Shdema does not disclose determining system level information, such as relay and panel address parameters.

Applicants respectfully submit that Shdema does not teach or suggest each and every feature of Applicants' claimed invention and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2-7, 11-16, 18-20, and 22-23 ultimately depend from at least one of independent claims 1, 17, and 21. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-7, 11-16, 18-20, and 22-23 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

**CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over US 2002/0072816 to Shdema in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,892,167 to Polan *et al.* (“Polan”). Applicants respectfully traverse. Claims 8-10 ultimately depend from independent claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8-10 are also allowable for at least the foregoing reasons and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If it is believed that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036 with reference to Attorney Docket No. 87321.1740.

Respectfully submitted,

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